

STATEMENT OF FLEET ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ, U.S.N., BEFORE THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON EXPENDITURES IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

Admiral Nimitz

15 May 1946

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H.R. 2319 represents a sincere effort of the services to settle differences which have existed between them in order to provide for increased national security. The bill represents a compromise, drawn up in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding, designed to provide the nation with a defense organization adaptable to modern warfare.

The last war taught us many lessons which we should take into account in planning for the future. This bill incorporates those lessons. It gives legal status to those agencies which were found to be essential to the conduct of global war. It is geared to the increased tempo which modern weapons impose upon the conduct of war. It is sufficiently flexible to permit the ready incorporation of methods which future needs may dictate.

The bill provides for integration of the Departments of State, Army, Navy and Air Force, through the National Security Council, to the extent necessary to keep our military policy in balance with our foreign policy. It legalizes, formalizes and amplifies the now existing Committee of Three consisting of the Secretaries of State, War and Navy, which is the genesis of a National Security Council. That is a forward-looking and necessary step.

The bill provides for what I believe is vitally needed top management. It is my concept that the President will control the decisions of the Secretary of National Defense on matters of great importance to the United States just as closely as he would corresponding decisions of any Secretary of a Department of the Government. The President is the person ultimately responsible for decisions on matters of national security, and I cannot believe that a Secretary of National Defense would make any important decision without his approval.